

I. General Remarks Concerning This Response

Claims 1-26 are currently pending in the present application; no claims have been amended, added, or canceled.

The pending restriction requirement has divided the original claims into two groups: Group I, which includes claims 1-8, 11-14, and 18-24; and Group II, which includes claims 9, 10, 15-17, 25, and 26. In response to the restriction requirement, Applicant elects Group I.

II. Conclusion

For any other outstanding matters or issues, the examiner is urged to call or fax the below-listed telephone numbers to expedite the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: August 12, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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